Message Text

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TAGS: MNUC TECH PARM FR US IZ

SUBJ: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FRENCH-IRAQ RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: STATE 009379

SUMMARY: THE FRENCH MFA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE FRIDAY MORNING, JAN 13, IN RESPONSE TO REPORTED DEPARTMENT OF STATE COMMENTS MADE JAN 12 (SEE REFTEL RE FRENCH-IRAQ RESEARCH REACTOR). THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT FRANCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OWN NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY, HAS NO INTENTION OF CONSULTING WITH OTHERS REGARDING ITS EXPORTS, FOLLOWS A POLICY OF COOPERATING WITH OTHERS DESIRING THE BENEFITS OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND NOTES THAT THE SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REACTOR FOR IRAQ CONFORM WITH PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED BY THE LONDON SUPPLIERS MEETINGS. THE ABNORMALLY RAPID RESPONSE OF THE MFA CONTAINS PREVIOUSLY USED FRENCH PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF ITS POLICIES ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS AND OFFERS NO NEW INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SALE. THE COMMUNIQUE IS PRINCIPALLY AIMED AT DIFFUSING POTENTIAL DOMESTIC DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE MFA COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS:

A. "FRANCE INTENDS TO KEEP COMMAND OF ITS NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY IN REGARD TO ITS INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES.

- B. "WE THEREFORE HAVE NO INTENTION OF CONSULTING WITH ANYONE ELSE ON THE PRINCIPLE OR ON THE CONDITIONS OF OUR EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES. THE SALE OF A RESEARCH REACTOR TO IRAQ IS IN KEEPING WITH OUR POLICY OF COOPERATING WITH COUNTRIES DESIRING THE BENEFITS OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY.
- C. "THIS POLICY IS FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES EXPORTING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES, AND, AMONG OTHERS, BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH SUPPLIED MOST OF THE RESEARCH REACTORS PRESENTLY OPERATING IN THE WORLD AND FOR WHICH IT SUPPLIES HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM.
- D. "THE DELIVERY OF A RESEARCH REACTOR BY FRANCE TO IRAQ IS COVERED BY A SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1975, COMPLETED BY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1976, BOTH PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL OFFICIEL.
- E. "THESE AGREEMENTS CONFORM TO THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS, AS AGREED BY EXPORTING COUNTRIES DURING THEIR LONDON MEETINGS. FURTHERMORE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE PRINCIPLES HAVE JUST BEEN SENT TO THE IAEA.

- F. "WHEN MATERIALS OF AMERICAN ORIGIN ARE RE-EXPORTED OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT FAIL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE EURATOM-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT, TO OBTAIN THE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT."
- 2. THE AFP STORY STATES THAT THIS COMMUNIQUE IS IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT OF THURSDAY, JAN 12, WHEREIN IT WAS STATED THAT THE US RESERVED ITS POSITION ON THE FRENCH SALE OF A NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR TO IRAQ. HARTMAN

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